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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

February 22, 2005

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Dear Colleague:

It is an honor and a privilege for us to serve as the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies in the 1st session of the 109th Congress.

As we begin to develop the fiscal year 2006 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we would seek input from both member offices and outside parties interested in expressing their views on matters under the Subcommittee's purview. The Subcommittee will collect member requests via an electronic form posted on the House Intranet. We will collect this information in order to evaluate the need and/or merits of particular projects and programs. The due date is **April 8, 2005**.


As all of you are well aware, the Appropriations Committee faces a tight discretionary allocation in fiscal year 2006. As a result, we cannot guarantee that a particular project or program will be funded, either in part or in full. If your office is requesting funding for specific projects, it is especially important that your office assign a priority number to each project for which you are requesting funding. Each member office should prioritize their projects amongst the total number of requests (i.e., a member's office cannot have a number one priority for projects under the Agricultural Research Service and then another number one priority under the Natural Resources Conservation Service.) The Subcommittee **will only accept requests for project funding or bill / report language from a Member's office**. A signed letter MUST accompany the electronic submission from the Member of Congress to the Subcommittee Chairman that briefly mentions EACH of the items submitted electronically. No electronic file submissions will be considered without delivery of a signed letter that references each submission. Your office may access the electronic request form at the following link: <http://onlinecao.house.gov/appropriations/AGApprops.asp>.


If you or an outside party are interested in providing written testimony for the record in connection with our fiscal year 2006 budget hearings, please provide three copies to the Subcommittee at 2362A Rayburn House Office Building no later than **April 8, 2005**. Testimony is limited to not more than five single-spaced, letter-size pages, typed on only one side of each page. Although maps, pictures, graphs, letters, petitions and the like may be submitted for the information of the Subcommittee, it is not feasible to include them in the printed hearing record.

Of course, all testimony will be thoroughly reviewed by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will also review and consider all information received by Members at any time, whether or not submitted for publication in the formal hearing record.

We hope that this process will help expedite our hearing schedule and result in fewer disruptions and inconveniences for Members. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-2638.

Sincerely,


Henry Bonilla
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies


Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies